

in short order so the President can sign this legislation into law.

As I watched yesterday with the House completing their responsibilities on this legislation, I was hopeful that we could do that, pass it today. Why? Because this is a bill that I believe will save lives. It is a ban on a procedure that offends the sensibilities of almost all Americans, a procedure that the will of this Congress said to ban, and a bill the President will sign. Yet we will not be able to, at this juncture, consider it until we get back.

I know discussions have begun on both sides of the aisle as to how much debate time will be needed. I encourage members to move quickly on what we expect to be the final action—the final action—on this important priority. I will speak directly to the issue as soon as we return, but I wanted to put my colleagues on notice that we will be moving forward and will be scheduling this conference report for Senate action as soon as we possibly can.

#### KURT DODD

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, as the ranking member of the Committee on Appropriations, it is my sad duty to inform the Senate family of the passing this morning of Kurt Dodd. Kurt served as the Democratic clerk on the Interior and Related Agencies Subcommittee from 1998 to 2000.

Those of us who knew Kurt, and particularly those of us who were lucky enough to have worked closely with Kurt, will truly miss his gracious manner, his soft-spoken style, and his profound dedication to duty. I have said on many occasions that the individuals who hold staff positions here in the Senate are, in my opinion, some of the smartest, most dedicated individuals in government service. Kurt Dodd stood at the head of that line. No one knew more about his areas of responsibility than Kurt. No one was more responsive to the needs of the Members of our committee than Kurt. And no one was more widely respected for his integrity and honor, than was Kurt.

Mr. President, on behalf of the Committee on Appropriations, and I am sure on behalf of the entire U.S. Senate, I send deepest condolences to Kurt's family.

#### THE 16TH ANNUAL NANCY HANKS LECTURE ON ARTS AND PUBLIC POLICY

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, each year, a prominent member of the Nation's cultural community is invited to deliver a lecture on the role of the arts in the public policy. These annual lectures are tribute to the memory of Nancy Hanks, who served as chairperson of the National Endowment for the Arts from 1969 to 1977, and who had the wide respect of all of us on both sides of the aisle.

Robert Redford was honored as this year's Nancy Hanks Lecturer, and he

delivered an impressive address at the Kennedy Center last month.

His remarks emphasized the fundamental importance of the arts in our public policy, as an essential expression of our freedom and as an indispensable part of our national imagination at its best.

The unfortunate reality today is that when the economy suffers, support for the arts and for arts education is reduced. In communities across the Nation, funding for the arts and for cultural programming are facing serious reductions. Robert Redford's address reminds us of the unacceptable price we pay for neglecting the arts.

Today, Robert Redford is an American cultural icon, and his accomplishments as an actor and director are renowned throughout the world. His advocacy for the arts is less well known, but he deserves great credit for his impressive leadership and dedication in elevating the national debate on this vital issue. Many of us feel it is his finest role of all.

At the beginning of his lecture, speaking of his own early years, he says:

I grew up in a time when democracy was taken for granted since it was drummed into our minds as a fundamental definition of America and why it was great. I was shaped by WWII and a time when we were all united in its purpose—unlike conflicts of today. Because times were tough, and my family resources slim, we didn't have fancy toys or luxuries and had to be creative in inventing worlds of our own. My imagination was my most valuable commodity and thankfully it became a life force for me at a very young age. I saw the world around me not only as it was. I saw the world around me as it could be. Art and the imagination that give it life became my closest companions.

Before anyone was much interested in what I had to say, they were interested in what I created. As a kid, I remember sketching everything in sight. My parents and their friends played cards and I began drawing them as a group, individual faces and the like. Then I moved under the table and began sketching their feet at which point I think everyone started to worry. Even though they thought I was a bit weird, I got attention and encouragement for my "art" at a young age.

His lecture will be of interest to all of us in Congress and I ask unanimous consent that it be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

#### REMARKS OF ROBERT REDFORD AT THE AMERICANS FOR THE ARTS' 16TH ANNUAL NANCY HANKS LECTURE ON ARTS AND PUBLIC POLICY

I've been coming to Washington, D.C. for the past 30 years, either filming here, as was the case in All the President's Men, or for lobbying efforts on behalf of issues relating to the environment, energy, human rights and art. In the beginning, it was a heady experience to be in the halls of power surrounded by history and event, feeling what it is like to be an integral part of a democracy—particularly if you were fortunate enough to move someone on an important issue.

In time, you experience changes in political climates, different attitudes and prior-

ities. The strength of the system that controls decisions and compromises became clear over time, and expectations of success had to be tendered with failure relating to these realities. But still, you feel fortunate to have access to the ears that made decisions.

Even though you knew that celebrity was maybe a door opener, it nonetheless cuts both ways in politics. Like the time I was on the Presidential campaign trail and speaking to thousands of kids on a college campus about the importance of their vote and environmental issues. In the roar of their connection with what I was saying, I thought for a moment "I'm really getting through here!" Then I walked off stage and immediately a reporter stuck a microphone in my face and said, "Who do you think is better looking, you or Dan Quayle?"

So, just when you might be feeling your oats, reality has a way of sneaking up and putting it all in perspective. But as a citizen and an artist, I try to remember that it is a right and responsibility to be able to partake in the process of democracy I'm here today because of my belief that art is a great translator of that which is both familiar and unfamiliar and that it is through art that we can come to know ourselves and others. To me, the vitality and insight which art brings to civil society is more important now than ever.

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While I was a poor student academically, I shined in sports and in art and my third grade teacher was next to recognize that art was a legitimate means of expression for me as I struggled with more traditional approaches.

I remember she had me come to the front of the room and draw a story on this big pad of newsprint on an easel. I think we were studying English and she used it as a basis to make a point. The whole class seemed to get it and all learned a little about sentence structure and storytelling in away that engaged and made sense. I didn't know what "it" was that they got, but it sure felt good.

My teacher's encouragement of my artistic tendencies continued, making me realize art was something legitimate to pursue and that it was integral to how I was finding my way in this world and making sense of things. If not for this, I may have taken a path that wasn't as fulfilling and productive. That's the main reason I'm here, to pay tribute to the work that so many of you do every day, to keep art alive in schools and in communities all across the country.

Being in this hall tonight prompted me to remember some of the writings of President